

c.44.6: Jesus Lane

1899 05 18

The new Clergy Training School in Jesus Lane Cambridge was opened by the Bishop of Durham. It has been erected adjacent to All Saints Church at a cost of nearly £8000. The most experienced teachers in Cambridge have long felt a want of a centre to which the younger members might naturally turn when they wished for conference, or counsel, or sympathy in reference to the choice of their vocation in life. Many men of ability were lost to the Ministry of the church through the want of such opportunities for brotherly conference with men nearly of their own age.

1901 05 23 c

Guidice Gelsomnio, an Italian organ-grinder was summonsed for playing a musical instrument in Jesus Lane, Cambridge; as the defendant did not understand English an interpreter named Antonio Arpino was engaged. The occupier of Little Trinity, Mr James Herbert Taylor, said he asked him to desist playing within 100 yards of his house. Defendant gave up playing and went away. He was playing in Bridge Street in the evening. P.C. Evans measured the distance to be 75 yards. Defendant said he did not know how many yards it was from one house to another. He was fined 2s.6d.

1902 08 06

Popular Country Drives. The "Alexandra" and "Coronation" char-a-bancs will leave Cambridge Market Hill on Wednesday for Shelford, Newton and Whittlesford; return fare 1s. Thursday special drive to Royston, Friday Haslingfield and Saturday Earith bridge. Special Sunday drive to Whittlesford Bridge pleasure gardens. H. Buck, jobmaster, Crown Inn, Jesus Lane, Cambridge – advert

1902 09 08

Sir – Of all places Cambridge seems to suffer most from the plague of bell-ringing. It is not time the custom was discouraged? Now every home possesses at least one timepiece church bell-ringing seems

superfluous. What must be the sufferings of any nervous invalid in or near Jesus Lane, compelled to lie and listen, sometimes for twenty minutes on end, to the doleful "Ding, dang, dong" which comes from that direction. Why should people be allowed to murder the calm of a Sabbath evening with the hideous din of their bellwhacking? — Americus

1904 11 07

The results of the fifth of November 'rag' in Cambridge were more or less serious injuries to two policemen, considerable damage to private property and several police-court summonses. A little boy engaged in firing a squib in the midst of a 'ragging' party proceeding along Jesus Lane was knocked down by a cyclist and rendered insensible. Fortunately he was soon revived by a number of undergraduates who at once attended to him. One man fainted and another was admitted to Hospital suffering from injuries to the head caused by his being knocked down by a cab

1906 03 03

Sir – for the past two Saturday afternoons a young Freshman has been disporting himself on a motor bicycle, making a circuit of the main thoroughfares of Cambridge, starting from Jesus Lane and ending at the Catholic Church, taking in Petty Cury and the Market Place. Being market-day the already too-congested streets are filled with many country folk, ladies and children, both on foot and on bicycles. He evidently likes to hear the sound of his hooter and the stench from his machine is disgusting. L.P.C. Macquaid. 06 03 03

1907 02 12

A Chinese undergraduate of St Catharine's college was summoned for driving a motor car in Jesus Lane at a furious rate. Frederick Siggers, a college porter, said he was wheeling a plate basket when the car passed within two feet of the wall on the wrong side of the road at 18 miles an hour. The student said it would be a wonderful car that could get up to that speed after a sharp corner. But he was convicted and his licence endorsed. 07 02 12

1908 08 07

Early on Saturday morning a motorist ran his car into a pillar-box in Jesus Lane, it then crossed the pavement damaging the wall around Jesus College grounds. The offside front wheel was knocked off and the front of the car badly damaged but the occupants escaped unhurt. The driver gave the curious explanation that he had been travelling all night and had 'dozed off' and thus lost control of the steering wheel. CWN 08 08 07 p3

1909 11 26

Councillors considered a police report on the auctioneers or cheap-jacks who visit Cambridge Market Hill on Saturday evenings and the Peas Hill in daytime with 'mock' jewellery. It was agreed such persons be not allowed and that in future 'Hoop-la' stalls be not allowed on Market Hill. A suggestion from the Cambridge University Automobile Club as to the placing of mirrors at the Bridge Street end of Jesus Lane was rejected. Drains in City Road and Eden Street were a nuisance and injurious to health, owners should do the necessary work or it will be done by the Surveyor and charged to them. CWN 09 11 26

1910

1910 02 11

Harry Cox of King Street was an old pugilist who learnt in a hard school where gloves were regarded as unnecessary. He started in a travelling fairground booth but when he visited Midsummer Fair decided to settle in Cambridge. He took part in many open-air fights without the sanction of the law which were witnessed by large numbers. Pupils from the University attended his rooms at the Green Lion in Short Street and later at the Royston Arms, Jesus Lane. "Professor Cox" also gave lessons at St John's and other colleges and several University champions passed through his hands including T. Milvain of Trinity Hall who was heavyweight champion of All England in 1868-69 and is now Judge Advocate General. 10 02 11c

1912 05 24

Cambridge Automobile & Engineering Company, Sidney St action against George Dash, motor and garage proprietor, Jesus Lane for work done - 12 05 24b

1912 07 19

A motor mechanic told the Receiver he had taken the management of the University Automobile Club in Jesus Lane. Finding that the membership of the club was not large enough the garage had been given up by them and he opened it on his own four years ago. He had no money but some of the members of the club continued to use the garage and paid deposits. He had entered into partnership and paid the first instalment on a motor landaulette. But they'd had a row and he'd continued on his own. 12 07 19h

1913 10 24

Town council – dirty pavements, baths, Wallis Court Jesus lane cottages unfit

1914 07 10

Cambridge Corporation had taken a strip of land from Sidney Sussex College for the widening of Sidney Street and Jesus Lane. They built a 12-high wall in place of the existing one, part of the old Franciscan Priory. The college claimed £1,763 compensation for the rebuilding of their old fives court. But it had been very seldom used and was very dilapidated. The Corporation claimed the land taken was worth much less as there was never any prospect of its sale for building purposes 14 07 10

1914 07 10

Borough Council Sued,—At the Surveyors' Institution, St. George's Street, London, S.W. on Friday, the arbitration was opened in the matter of "The Masters, Fellows and Scholars of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Cambridge." It was stated that the claim was made by the College authorities in respect to the taking (compulsorily) of a strip of land by the latter in connection with the widening of Sidney Street and Jesus Lane. Cambridge. The total claim on behalf of the College authorities amounted to about £2.650. The award was reserved. 1914 07 10

1914 08 14

Jesus Lane widening, Sidney Sussex awarded £1,471 - 14 08 14 p4

1918 01 23

The Manor House, Jesus Lane; boarding and day school for girls – advert – 18 01 23e

1920

1920 09 29

Improvements agreed Fair Street & Jesus Lane – 20 09 29b

1922 02 15

Jesus Lane wall on corner being removed to widen road – photo – 22 02 15b

1925 10 24

Wesley House, the new Wesleyan Methodist post-graduate theological college which has risen on a site in Jesus Lane, was formally opened. It was five years ago that the Wesleyan Methodist Conference decided to set up the college at Cambridge and a site was purchased from Jesus college. The architect, Sir Aston Webb, has carried out a pleasing design in red brick. The building comprises accommodation for 29 students. The work of the college has been carried on for the past four years in hired buildings

1927 10 04

A motor road sweeper and street cleaner was demonstrated in Jesus Lane, Cambridge. The makers claim it has a small capital outlay, low operating costs, small turning circle and ease of control. The brush can be lifted when not in use and sprays fitted to damp down dust in hot weather. The machine worked over 150 yards of road which had been specially covered with a layer of refuse. It showed a fine turn of speed - with the brush not in use it can do 20 mph - and the rubbish was quickly and neatly removed to the gutters. Compared with the horse sweeper now used it is much superior.

1927 10 26

Cambridge councillors spent a couple of hours observing the capabilities of another motor road sweeper, the "Karrier" Patent Road Sweeper, Sprinkler and Collector". It was first tried in Jesus Lane where a large quantity of newly fallen plane tree leaves were thickly scattered about the roadway and had drifted to a depth of four inches. A quantity of road sweepings had also been laid and pressed down firmly by passing traffic. Some of this and patches of horse droppings proved very difficult to remove and the large leaves presented a serious problem. A great quantity of the leaves was removed and lifted into the tipping truck at the back of the vehicle but some of the leaves spun round with the brush and were deposited on the roadway again behind it.

1929 03 15 c

A Cambridge undergraduate was fined for an assault on a taxicab driver who attempted to push him off the running-board of a stationary cab. It took place after a bump supper when he was in a very excited condition. Robert Osborne said he went to the ADC Theatre and left his cab on the rank on Jesus Lane. The undergrad and others came along the road and turned the starting handle of the taxis. He jumped on his running-board and would not get off, so he pushed him off. The lad then hit him several times.

1929 10 14

Cambridge councillors will discuss swapping a portion of Butt Green running alongside Victoria Avenue from Jesus Lane towards the river. It would be surrendered to Jesus College and would be fenced, although a footpath would be made. In exchange they would get New Square which would then be converted into a motor car park, together with two acres of land off Auckland Road which would be thrown into Midsummer Common and a small piece of land in front of the new Brunswick School buildings.

1930

1931 03 06

For years King and Harper have been striving to secure an alternative entry at their Bridge Street garage for the convenience of their valued customers. Now three houses have been acquired and members of staff gave a rousing cheer when a Morris Oxford Isis Six Saloon became the first car to enter at Bridge Street and leave in Jesus Lane. 31 03 06I

1932 05 16

Flames reached the roof of King and Harper's garage in Jesus Lane when a taxi-cab caught fire as it was being filled with petrol. Cars in the garage were pushed out and the blaze extinguished. The cab was taken to the Thompson's Lane depot but some part of it still smouldered for at four in the morning it again blazed up. This time it was totally destroyed. 32 05 16

1933 07 05

Sir, If I were 'Traffic Dictator' for Cambridge motor cycles would not be allowed in Sussex Street or Christ's Lane, there would be no parking of cars for more than fifteen minutes or in Jesus Lane: why spend £2,000 widening it, then block the space gained by motor cars. Bus users would be made to queue up near Lloyds Bank: often it is virtually impossible to get through the crowds of waiting passengers. – 'Interested'. 33 07 05 p8

1935 02 02

In the gale of January 26th an ancient and somewhat decrepit sycamore in the Sidney Sussex College Fellows' Garden was blown down. This tree was the last survivor of an avenue of sycamores planted in 1607-8 along the east side of that part of the King's Ditch which crossed the college grounds from the end of Hobson Street to Jesus Lane and thence along the side of Park Street. In the college accounts are payments to Thomas Hobson, the carrier, 'for bringing the sycamore trees from London ... iiis. xd' 35 02 02

1936 11 28

The Truevoice Recording Studio in Jesus Lane is now open every day for the producing of gramophone records. Your opportunity to hear yourself on a perfect 10 inch double sided wax record for a fee of 10/6. Children's voices faithfully reproduced. Specially equipped studio for music and orchestral recordings. These records make ideal Christmas Gifts to your friends. Why not make one and send it to them. They will be delighted – Advert. 36 11 28b

1937 06 18

The Tyre Service Company claims to be one of the oldest tyre firms in Britain. Commencing in Norfolk in 1902 it moved to Cambridge in 1919 and carried on business at Pound Hill and Jesus Lane. Through constant expanding business they have transferred to more extensive premises in Burleigh Street where they carry the largest and most comprehensive stock of motor tyres in the Eastern Counties, including a full range of Dunlop, Goodyear, Indian, Firestone and all leading makes 37 06 18

1937 09 25

Jesus Lane Sunday School was set up in 1827, later moving to King Street where many local children were taught religion by undergraduates who rose to positions of eminence in the church. A new large school was erected in Paradise Street in 1868. But times change. After the war many families have moved further out so now they have sold that building and erected a new hall in Brooks Road which will also serve as a temporary church until a new one can be built. All children between eight and 15 are invited 37 09 25

1938 10 15

Marshalls' spacious new motor premises on Jesus Lane include an entrance and exit to the petrol and oil filling stations, wide enough for three lines of traffic. There are showrooms on three upper floors which are approached by ramps, with the stores department in the basement. The garage and workshops behind is equipped with the most modern and up-to-date machinery and run by a large and efficient staff. The whole is laid out to afford every luxury and comfort for the motorist 38 10 15, b

1940

1942

Bomb on Jesus Lane 1942 – 85 05 24b # c.45.7

1949 06 13

Occupants of the caretaker's flat had to escape in their night attire when fire badly damaged the Friends Meeting House in Jesus Lane, Cambridge. The fire caused some anxiety since it occurred in one of Cambridge's three danger zones. It appears to have started in the main hall, where a charred piano and burnt-out settee were evidence of its intensity. The usefulness of the fire brigade's recently-introduced radio equipment was effectively demonstrated for calling reinforcements

1950

1950 05 27

Motorists have been queuing up at Cambridge garages to fill up for Whitsun joy-rides. As a result of petrol derationing local garages have put extra men on the pumps to cope with the demand and early this afternoon there was no sign of a slackening off. Marshalls reported increased sale of petrol. Three

men manned the pumps instead of the usual one and happy motorists told them to "Fill her up till she flows over!" The firm's Jesus Lane depot has well over 5,000 gallons in stock and can get more if it is needed.

1951 01 23

Cambridge town planning committee say there can be no justification for a spine relief road between Histon Road corner and Jesus Lane merely to preserve for a few years more buildings on the west side of Magdalene Street which, although of some architectural interest, are sub-standard from every other point of view. Pending demolition the commercial use of the buildings should be terminated, doing away with the necessity for vehicles to wait outside

1952 08 23

Jesus Lane Sunday School has been wound up. It was founded in 1827 by a group of University men distressed by the spiritual desolation of Barnwell who decided to start a "Gownsman's Sunday School". Four of them set out to visit every house in search of scholars and on the first Sunday the school opened with over 200 children attending at the Friends Meeting House. Later they erected a large new building in Paradise Street where 600 children were on the books. The 1914 war dealt the school a blow from which it never wholly recovered and in 1936 the building was sold to the Boy Scouts Association.

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1960 02 01

An 18-inch-long canister marked 'Explosive' was found lying in the gutter near the Milton Road roundabout at Mitcham's Corner. It was removed by the RAF who said it was probably a mortar type bomb. Recently Swastikas and the words 'Juden Raus' were daubed in bright green distemper on the cream entrance to the University Pitt Club in Jesus Lane. This was formed in 1835 as a political club but is now one of the most exclusive and expensive social clubs in Cambridge 60 02 01 60 02 15

1960 09 07

The widening of the Market Street – Petty Cury area of Sidney Street will complement the part that was completed before the war when the Boots and Trueform buildings were erected. Some people feel that the road nearer Jesus Lane is a greater priority but the widened section by the two bus stops outside Holy Trinity will relieve traffic congestion. There is no intention of completing the process right through to Bridge Street says T.V. Burrows, the City Surveyor. 60 09 07

1960 10 12

Sir – plans to make the centre of Cambridge a 'Pink Zone' with parking meters will have serious implications. Whereas currently 50 cars are parked in Jesus Lane, only 30 can be accommodated at meters. The result will be chaos with cars milling round in vain trying to find a parking space. Can anyone imagine a motorist being prepared to pay sixpence or a shilling to leave his car for three minutes while he takes his suit to the cleaners? Lion Yard is often full by 9.30 am and if the city is to prosper we must have space for vehicles. The only answer is to provide some very large multi-deck parks, then make motorists use them by restricting waiting on the street – 'Fair Play' 60 10 12

1962 01 05

Barnwell and Wadloes Roads, sections of the Whitehill housing estate, were intended to be part of a ring road on the eastern side of Cambridge. That project was abandoned years ago but now they could form part of a proposed eastern by-pass. This should take priority over the 'Spine Relief Road' which was planned to run from Huntingdon Road, across Chesterton Road, over the river and up to Jesus Lane, councillors agreed. 62 01 05a

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Jesus Lane – 63 04 11

1967 01 17

Trustee Savings Bank new premises Jesus Lane opened by Lord Butler - 67 01 17

1967 04 11

Quaker Meeting House, Jesus Lane to be replaced; dates from 1894 – 67 04 11

1970

1971 06 05

Jesus Lane demolition of houses to make room for new buildings at Wesley House theological college - photo $-71\,06\,05$

1972 03 07

Cambridge's Civic Restaurant, one of the last in the country, will be closed on March 30 after 30 years of service stretching back to the days of British Restaurants The old Post Office building, where it is situated, is to be demolished to make way for the next stage of the Lion Yard development. The restaurant which for several years has served an average of 1,000 lunches a day has been there since 1947. Before then its previous home since 1942 had been the Pitt Club in Jesus Lane. It was then that it was known as a British restaurant, one of the thousands set up by the Government throughout the country to provide a communal feeding service during the war years, p5

1980

1980 01 25

An imaginative plan to breathe life into the redundant church of All Saints in Jesus Lane, Cambridge was unveiled by the Bishop of Ely. The diocese is seeking planning approval for an ambitious scheme to put most of the church back into regular use while retaining the architectural features that make it a distinctive Victorian building. If the scheme does not go through, the only future for the church, was closed in 1983, will be demolition or as an empty shell requiring £100,000 of immediate repairs. 80 01 25

1980 11 08

An exclusive university dining club may open its doors to the public. The Pitt Club is a miniature men-only London club where prospective members are vetted carefully and anyone without a public school education is likely to be black-balled. It also houses the Hawks Club for university sporting Blues. But it is no longer making money and is looking for tenants to share the former Turkish bath house in Jesus Lane. Strudels, one of the restaurants in the Kite facing eviction, is amongst a number to express an interest. 80 11 08

1981 01 12

The redundant All Saints church in Cambridge may have had £50,000 in its coffers when it was closed down seven years ago. The discovery has re-opened the simmering row about the future of the Victorian church in Jesus Lane. Supporters claim it could have been used on badly-needed repairs to the fabric of the building and have accused the Diocese of letting it go to rack and ruin. But the archdeacon says money is no longer available for a church when it is made redundant and should be used for the benefit of the living church rather than the dead. 81 01 12b

1981 11 12

It was a sad day when Strudels – one of Cambridge's most unusual restaurants – was forced to abandon their premises in the Kite Area. But now they have reopened as a high-class restaurant in the famous Pitt Club in Jesus Lane. The old favourites are still on the menu though they have an eye for the really unusual such as stuffed acorn squash. House wine is £4 a bottle. 81 11 12

1981 11 27

The first Cambridge tunnels dug under Peas Hill were used as wine vaults and one is blocked off by a wall of wine bottles cemented together. During the war they were wired for electricity and fitted out as air raid shelters for 400 people and later dossers used them as overnight hostels. In 1963 came proposals for an underground road starting at Maids Causeway and running down Jesus Lane and Emmanuel Road. There was also to be a three-storey underground car park. But the scheme was rejected. 81 11 27

1981 12 07

All Saints Church in Jesus Lane, Cambridge, is to be preserved and taken over by the Redundant Churches Fund. A masterpiece of Victorian architecture, it was designed by George Bodley in the Gothic style and contains windows and wall stencils designed by William Morris. Now £100,000 will be spent on urgent repairs to the roof. 81 12 07

1982 08 10

Traffic through the centre of Cambridge was brought to a standstill for nearly an hour when an articulated car transporter loaded with two new Cortinas was unable to turn the corner of Jesus Lane into Bridge Street. Despite several attempts at reversing the driver became completely stuck until police removed a traffic sign. The lorry had to reverse over the stump of the sign and crush it in order to get free. 82 08 10

1982 12 09

Accommodation for computer-based companies in Cambridge is at a premium. Several firms are run from private houses with others based around King's Parade and Jesus Lane, where buildings are available and rents favourable. Now a technology square is planned for land at the rear of Shire Hall similar to Trinity College's Science Park but at smaller rents. There might be dual-purpose buildings for start-up companies providing both a home and an office to work in. 82 12 09

1983 06 14

All Saints church in Jesus Lane, which was threatened with demolition despite being described as one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture, will open to the public for the first time in ten years. About £40,000 has been spent by the Redundant Churches Fund to make it watertight after years of rain leaking through the roof. The next project will be to clean up the interior and in particular the wall paintings 83 06 14 p10

1984 03 28

Sidney Archer, head chef at Emmanuel College started his career at 14 in the Pitt Club in Jesus Lane, then worked at the University Arms Hotel and the Red Lion in Petty Cury before going to Emmanuel where worked for 40 years. He specialised in sauces and fish dishes and was scheduled to cook lunch for the Queen when she visits in May as part of the college's 400th celebrations. 84 03 28 p4

1985 06 05

The young men of Cambridge University who admit to being 'Young Fogeys' are rather proud of the title. They saunter out of the Pitt Club on Jesus Lane planning another cocktail party and pretending the 'Orrible Eighties' have simply not arrived. Forget computers, aluminium briefcases, digital watches and body-building. These young men would swap the whole lot for a good wine, a Betjeman poem and a bank manager who called them 'Sir' and did not try to distribute cash-dispenser cards. 85 06 05 & a

1989 02 28

Myttons restaurant and brasserie takes up most of the ground floor of the Pitt Club in Jesus Lane. Behind the classical façade of the building originally built as a Roman bath house last century, a complete transformation has taken place. The elegant dining room provided a traditional atmosphere for substantial dining with a fully licensed bar for liquid refreshment. The brasserie offers economic lunches and dinners with most dishes under £5 89 02 28a

1989 03 09

Cambridge Tyre Company, which celebrates its 60th anniversary, has a number of early tyres in stock. They include an American Swineheart tyre for a Model T Ford and a beaded edge Michelin from the same period. Ernest Brown founded the company in 1929 based in a small shop in Jesus Lane when many tyres were of solid construction. By 1935 they'd moved to Burleigh Street when tyres were fitted at the side of the road and in 1964 took over premises owned by Winston Smith the butcher in Histon Road. 89 03 09a

1989 12 01

Anglia TV officially opened its new base in Jesus Lane – 89 12 01a

1989 12 12

Sir Arthur Marshall to retire – profile. His father set up a de luxe car hire service in Brunswick Terrace in 1909, opening garages in King Street and Jesus Lane. In 1912 carried petrol to Beta II airship which landed in grounds Jesus College. Bought first aircraft at Fowlmere in 1919. Got pilot's licence 1929 & bought a Gipsy Moth. Opened landing field behind house in Newmarket Road – 89 12 12b, c

1990 01 25

Today's squatters are usually the young and single who do not qualify to go on council housing waiting lists. But after the war couples with children occupied empty houses in Jesus Lane and Parkside that had been requisitioned by the army. Then one family moved into Nissen huts in the grounds of a house in Hills Road and another into a four-storey property in Portugal Place. From then on more huts or houses were occupied daily. Then pre-fabricated steel houses were erected in Lichfield Road and Trumpington. They were meant to be temporary but some were lived in until the 1970s - 90 01 25c

1990 06 22

Armed robbery at TSB Bank, Jesus Lane – 90 06 22

1990 09 21

TSB to close branches in Burleigh St & Jesus Lane – 90 09 21a